



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DIRECTOR NAMED FOR KRUEGER-SCOTT MANSION

Mayor Sharpe James today announced that he has appointed Catherine J. Lenix-Hooker, deputy chief of the Schomburg Center of the New York Public Library, to serve as executive director of the Krueger/Scott Mansion Cultural Center.

Lenix-Hooker, who has worked for the Schomburg--one of the nation's leading research centers for black culture--since 1981, will be charged with overseeing the transformation of the Krueger-Scott Mansion into a major African-American educational and cultural facility, according to James.

He maintained, "We have made a strong commitment to the restoration of this magnificent structure and its development as a premier center for African-American culture in the state of New Jersey. And, to ensure its success we are appointing an executive director with the professional credentials and leadership experience needed to make the project a reality.

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"The Krueger Mansion, one of the grandest homes ever built in Newark is currently being renovated to its former splendor, I am excited at our good fortune in having Ms. Lenix-Hooker on board to lead this project," the Mayor stated.

He said that the new director will oversee the restoration of the building, as well as its fundraising and development efforts. She will work with the advisory board in planning long-range activities and events.

The board, which will be appointed by the Mayor, will be composed of representatives from the government, local, college, business and church communities.

Lenix-Hooker is a graduate of Howard University in Washington, D.C. and holds a Master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland. She has over 24 years of professional experience, including serving as acting chief of the Schomburg Center and chief of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Washington, D.C.

She has extensive curatorial and writing experience and is listed in Who's Who Among American Women and Who's Who in Black America. She is currently chair of the Parent Advisory Board of St. Mark the Evangelist Roman Catholic School in New York and former chair of the Harlem Hospital Center Community Advisory Board.

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Central Ward Councilman George Branch, who represents the community in which the Krueger-Scott Mansion is located, maintained, "We in the Central Ward want to see this project become a success and certainly Ms. Lenix-Hooker has the credentials to make this long-awaited dream a reality. I support her in her efforts and look forward to working with her."

Dr. Alex Boyd, director of The Newark Public Library, which will manage the Krueger-Scott Cultural Center, said, "We in the library are delighted with the appointment.

"As a library administrator," Boyd stressed, " I can appreciate the exceptional experience that Catherine Lenix-Hooker brings to this project. Her expertise and knowledge is illustrated in her familiarity with African-American materials, as a curator of exhibitions; in her proven ability to gain support for important institutions, and in the contribution she has made to the field of African-American studies."

Lenix-Hooker will assume her new position with the Krueger-Scott Mansion project on November 12, 1990.

Built in 1888 by beer baron, Gottfried Krueger, the four story, 43 room mansion on High Street, now Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, was reportedly the most expensive residential structure ever built in Newark. The mansion was later purchased by Louise Scott, said to be the City's first black millionaire.

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In recent years, the structure, wracked by vandalism, had fallen into disrepair. Now under a partnership between the City of Newark and private developers the mansion is undergoing a multi-million dollar face lift to restore it to its former grandeur. Upon completion in 1992, the facility will become a cultural center for the Central Ward community and showcase for African-American history.